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Message Text

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44
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-11

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SP-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 SWF-02

CIEP-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03

NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /150 W
---------- 079155
R 021410Z AUG 74
FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3418
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 0799

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, SF
SUBJ: FRAME CONSOLIDATED TEXTILE MILLS DISMISSES 1000 STRIKERS
AND THREATENS TO CLOSE DOWN AT END OF SECOND CONSECUTIVE WEEK
OF WILDCAT STRIKES IN EAST LONDON.

1. ACCORDING TO AUGUST 2 PRESS REPORTS FRAME'S CONSOLIDATED
TEXTILE MILLS HAS DISMISSED AND PAID OFF OVER 1000 BLACK WORKERS
WHO STRUCK JULY 29 AND HAS ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO CLOSE DOWN
FACTORY.

2. FRAME'S ACTION CAME TOWARD END OF TWO WEEKS OF WILDCAT
WALKOUTS IN SUPPORT OF DEMANDS FOR MODEST WAGE INCREASES WHICH
BEGAN MONDAY JULY 22 WITH STRIKE OF 1500 WORKERS AT CAR DISTRIBUTORS
ASSEMBLY PLANT AND EVENTUALLY SPREAD TO SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF
OTHER FIRMS INCLUDING KOFFRARIAN REINFORCING, CYRIL LORD, DUNLOP
FLOORING, REGENT NECKWEAR, EVERITE, DISTILLERS CORP, CAPE

WINES, LANGEBERG CO-OP, KIMBER CONSTRUCTION AND BORDER PASSENGER
TRANSPORT AS WELL AS FRAME. TOTAL NUMBER OF BLACK STRIKERS
REACHED ABOUT 4500 BY END OF JULY.
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3. CISKEI CHIEF MINISTER LENNOX SEBE INTERVENED TO GET 200 BUS DRIVERS OF BORDER PASSENGER TRANSPORT CO. TO RETURN TO WORK AFTER JULY 29 STRIKE HAD SERIOUSLY DISRUPTED EAST LONDON ECONOMY BY PREVENTING THOUSANDS OF BLACK WORKERS FROM TRAVELING TO WORK FROM HOMES IN MDANTSANE TOWNSHIP.

4. THUS FAR STRIKES APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN NON-VIOLENT BUT THERE ARE REPORTS OF INTIMIDATION OF NON-STRIKERS AND OF USE BY POLICE OF DOGS AND TEAR GAS.

5. ONCE AGAIN, IN ABSENCE OF TRADE UNIONS OR OTHER MUTUALLY-RECOGNIZED SPOKESMEN FOR BLACK STRIKERS INABILITY OF EMPLOYERS AND STRIKERS TO COMMUNICATE HAS BEEN MAJOR PROBLEM.

6. COMMENT: FRAME'S THREAT TO CEASE OPERATIONS AT THIS ONE PLANT RATHER THAN NEGOTIATE, WHETHER SERIOUSLY-INTENDED OR NOT, CONSTITUTES PARTICULARLY SAVAGE METHOD OF BRINGING UNSOPHISTICATED AND UNORGANIZED WORKERS TO HEEL ON TERMS IMPOSED UNILATERALLY BY EMPLOYER.
GUTHRIE

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Draft Date: 02 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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